

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A shot-peening apparatus for shot-peening, with a stream of shot-peening particles, an inner wall of a channel having at least one bend in a longitudinal direction thereof, said apparatus comprising:

a flexible plastic tube advanceable through the bent portion of the channel for introducing said stream of shot-peening particles into the bent portion of the channel,

an outlet end on said tube,

a particle deflection and outlet device attached to said outlet end for directing the shot-peening particles against the inner wall of said channel, and

an elongated helically wound wire enclosing said tube for reducing friction between the tube and said inner wall when the tube is advanced through the channel.

17. (Previously presented) The shot-peening apparatus of claim 16, wherein the tube is a polyurethane tube.

18. (Previously presented) The shot-peening apparatus of claim 16, wherein the diameter of the wire is equal to the thickness of the wall of the tube.

19. (Previously presented) The shot-peening apparatus of claim 16, wherein the diameter of the wire is smaller than the thickness of the wall of the tube.

20. (Previously presented) The shot-peening apparatus of claim 16, wherein the distance between sections of the helically wound wire adjacent to one another in a longitudinal direction of the tube is approximately the same or smaller than the diameter of the wire when the tube extends in a straight line.

21. (Previously presented) The shot-peening apparatus of claim 20, wherein sections of the helically wound wire adjacent to one another in a longitudinal direction of the tube abut on one another when the tube extends in a straight line.

22. (Previously presented) The shot-peening apparatus of claim 16, wherein said wire is a spring wire.

23. (Previously presented) The shot-peening apparatus of claim 16, wherein the helically wound wire has ends which are held at the tube to restrain displacement of the wire relative to the tube in a longitudinal direction of the tube.

24. (Currently amended) The shot-peening apparatus of claim 16, wherein said channel ~~comprises~~ is the inside of a bent pipe.

25. (Previously presented) A method for shot-peening, with a stream of shot-peening particles, an inner wall of a channel having at least one bend in a longitudinal direction thereof, comprising:

advancing a flexible plastic tube enclosed in an elongated helically wound wire through the bent portion of the channel for introducing said stream of shot-peening particles into said bent portion, and

directing the shot-peening particles against the inner wall of said channel via a particle deflection and outlet device attached to an outlet end of said tube,

wherein friction between the tube and said inner wall is reduced by said wire when the tube is advanced through the channel.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein for shot-peening the inner wall of said channel, the tube is moved along the channel and turned about a tube axis of said tube.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein said channel ~~comprises~~ is the inside of a bent pipe.